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APRIL 1.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Forty-two persons present.

The death of Geo. B. Wood, M.D., a member, was announced.

On Hybrid Fuchsias.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited a seedling fuchsia which had been obtained from *F. syringæflora*, that had been pollenised by a garden hybrid named "Inimitable." Mr. M. detailed the precautions taken to avoid the use by the flower of its own pollen. This one exhibited was the only one that had foliage and habit exactly like its female parent, and the flowers were also alike in every particular. The five remaining had not yet flowered, but were more or less unlike the female parent, and unlike each other in appearance. The foliage of one yet to flower was very much like the male parent; and one plant which had been destroyed by an accident last summer was exactly like the male parent.

The chief point of interest was that the pollen from one single flower, operating in one single pistil, and resulting in one single berry, should produce such a dissimilar progeny.

Note on the Adoption of an Ant-Queen.—Mr. McCook reported the following case of the adoption of a fertile queen of *Crematogaster lineolata*, a small black ant, by a colony of the same species. The queen was taken in Fairmount Park April 16th, and on May 14th following was introduced to workers of a nest taken the same day. The queen was alone within an artificial glass formicary, and several workers were introduced. One of these soon found the queen, exhibited much excitement, but no hostility, and immediately ran to her sister workers, all of whom were presently clustered upon the queen. As other workers were gradually introduced they joined their comrades until the body of the queen (who is much larger than the workers) was nearly covered with them. They appeared to be holding on by their mandibles to the delicate hairs upon the female's body, and continually moved their antennæ caressingly. This sort of attention continued until the queen, escorted by workers, disappeared in one of the galleries. She was entirely adopted, and thereafter was often seen moving freely, or attended by guards, about the nest, at times engaged in attending the larvæ and nymphs which had been introduced with the workers of the strange colony. The workers were fresh from their own natural home, and the queen had been in an artificial home for a month. As among ants the workers of different nests are usually hostile to each

other, this adoption of an alien queen is an example of the strong instinct which controls for preservation of the species.

APRIL 8.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-five persons present.

APRIL 15.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“Placenta of *Macacus Cynomolgus*.” By H. C. Chapman, M.D.

“Description of a new species of *Chirocephalus*.” By John A. Ryder.

The death of Isaac Hays, M.D., a member, was announced.

On Special Fecundity in Plants.—At the meeting of the Botanical Section. Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited specimens and remarked on the curious fact that special fecundity was not confined to individuals of any one species of plants, but the species themselves often exhibited peculiar fertility, as other species again were characterized by an indisposition to produce seed. Occasionally whole families or natural orders of plants exhibited these peculiarities. In our green-houses the *Begonia*, which has male and female flowers separately on the same plant, some species had an unusual preponderance of fertile female flowers; others, as, for instance, *Begonia glaucophylla*, had never borne a female flower within his observation. The race of Primroses were famous for an apparent abhorrence of their own pollen, rarely producing any seeds unless the plant had the chance to receive pollen from some other plant; but the Madeira Primrose—*Primula involu-crata*—was a remarkable self-fertilizer, and every flower, apparently under the most varied circumstances, produced an immense quantity of seeds. As illustrations of the infertility of some natural families, Asclepiadiæ and Apocynaceæ were quoted. In these we have the common Hoya or “Wax plant,” the Oleander, the common Silk-weeds, in which thousands of flowers are produced for every one that results in a seed vessel. In this part of the world at least the “Trailing Arbutus” rarely, if ever, produces perfect seed.